

CONTEXT

High Stakes

Products and services require reliable and affordable electricity

All consumers: \$18 billion in regional electricity costs

C/I: \$10.6 billion in regional electricity costs

C/I: 58% of all electricity costs in N.E.

Conclusion

Skin in game

Perceive inability to affect reliability and costs

SETTING

Knowledge and vocabulary gap

Formal and costly processes

Other stakeholder advocacy

Technical agencies

Un-unified ratepayer sector

Multiple issues, multiple forums

Restructuring changed cost regulation

Public consumer advocates

WHAT TO DO

“Nothing will change until there is change”

- economic climate
- environmental initiatives
- better decision making with consumer input
- models are developing

“All politics are local” and “Coalitions get things done”

- bottom up approach for C/I consumers
- organize by sectors, by in-state regions, by state, by region
- educate, prioritize issues, and act
- create coalitions with front line government advocates

Accessible & supportive agencies - PUCs, DPUs, ISO & FERC

- renewed and accessible communication
- informal avenues for consumer participation

MODEL: MASSACHUSETTS

AIM and Energy Consortium

New attention: western Massachusetts manufacturers

Decoupling issue: spark

High profile participation:

- Massachusetts Hospital Association
- Greater Boston Real Estate Board
- Massachusetts Food Association
- Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- Massachusetts Chapter, NAIOP

Evolution: The Energy Network (TEN)

- additional resources
- broaden advocacy base
- synergistic impact

CONCLUSIONS

C/I must be substantively involved in decision making

Impediments removed & agency support provided

Coalitions built – among consumers and advocates

Emerging Massachusetts model helpful

Effort sustained, stakes are too high to fail